

SERIAL NO.: 10/667,746

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AMENDMENT A

APPENDIX

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Pages 2 and 3 of Applicants' parent application, Ser. No. 09/909,066

Page 340 of Webster's Seventh New Dictionary.

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It is a further objective of this invention to provide permanently roughened or textured surfaces to parts molded from polyolefins, particularly from polyethylene.

It is an additional objective of this invention to provide a coating composition which is useful in the method for applying granular or particulate material to the surface of polyolefins, particularly of polyethylene.

Other and related objectives will be apparent from the following description of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention is a method to impart a permanent, roughened or textured surface to parts molded from polyolefins, particularly from polyethylene. The method comprises coating the selected surface of the part with a coating mixture of a tackifier resin and polyolefin particles in a liquid carrier and incorporating a granular or particulate matter in the coating, either by application to the coating or by admixing the granular or particulate matter into the coating mixture. The invention also includes the composition of the coating mixture. The coated surface of the polyethylene part is heated to the melt temperature of the polyolefin for a short time, sufficient to gel the polyolefin particles of the coating into the surface of the part, but insufficient to cause any thermal distortion of the part. The heating permanently incorporates the coating into the surface of the part, with the granular solids bonded to the surface to impart a roughened or textured surface.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The invention is applicable to the treatment of surfaces of polyolefins such as polymers and copolymers of ethylene, propylene, butene, isobutene, with minor amounts of other comonomers such as vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride, etc. Polyethylene is the most common and advantageously treated polyolefin and is preferred, however, the surfaces of other

polyolefins can be likewise treated.

The treatment of the invention is applicable to provide a roughened or textured surface to polyolefins in any form or shape, including films and sheets and molded objects such as containers, e.g., boxes, tanks, and outdoor signs, which are commonly rotationally molded from polyethylene.

The method employs a coating adhesive mixture which is applied to the polyolefin surface as a thin coating approximately several mils or less, preferably one mil, in thickness. The coating can be applied by any conventional method such as spraying, brushing, rolling, etc. Spraying is preferred for ease of application.

The active ingredients in the coating mixture are powders of a polyolefin, preferable polyethylene and a tackifier. The polyethylene powder and tackifier are present in relative proportions of 15-30 weight parts tackifier and 85-70 weight parts polyethylene powder per 100 weight parts. These ingredients are dispersed in a suitable liquid carrier to permit application to the polyolefin surface. The liquid carrier can be water or a hydrocarbon solvent such as hexane or toluene.

The tackifier should be compatible with the polyolefin and preferably should be white to neutral in color to avoid staining the polyolefin surface. It should also have a softening temperature less than the melting temperature of the polyolefin, which for polyethylene should be less than 250 degrees F. Useful tackifiers include polyacrylic acid polyacrylates, polyurethanes, poly(vinyl)acetate and copolymers and mixtures thereof. Particularly preferred tackifiers are hydrocarbon resins such as aliphatic or cycloaliphatic petroleum resins from five carbon monomers containing minor amounts of aromatics, synthetic terpene resins, chlorinated polyolefins and hydrogenated rosin and rosin esters. The tackifier should be of light color to avoid

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